

# DILLSBURG BANNER



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## Nuisance ordinance proposed by Dillsburg Borough Council

by Mary Lou Bytof

The Dillsburg Borough Council is taking steps to maintain this growing town's tranquility.

It is proposing a "nuisance ordinance" to help eliminate irritations such as howling dogs, blasting stereos, and safety hazards such as dangerous and unsanitary structures.

In addition to addressing such common public nuisances, the proposed ordinance also places time limits on home and lawn maintenance, construction, and some recreational activities.

The council was prepared to act on Ordinance Number 1990-2 at its July 17 meeting. However, Solicitor William D. Schrack III, advised the council that due to the Fourth of July holiday, the ordinance was not advertised for the proper length of time.

Therefore, the council tables the action on the ordinance until the August 21 meeting.

The ordinance will address, but not be limited to, the following noise nuisances.

--Loud radios, televisions, amplifiers, or other sound devices, which are heard beyond the premises from which they emanate.

--Gasoline powered lawn mowers or chain saws operated before 8 a.m. on weekdays, and before noon on Sundays.

--Model airplanes equipped with gasoline engines.

--Any dog or other animal which by frequent barking, or emitting any other noise or odor, shall annoy a number of people in a neighborhood.

The ordinance also forbids the existence of the following conditions:

--Open wells, cisterns, septic systems, or underground storage receptacles.

--Open excavation of sink holes.

--Unfinished buildings, foundations, or other structures.

--Buildings or structures damaged by any manner, or being maintained in a state of disrepair.

--Unsafe placement or storage of vehicles, materials, or equipment.

--Swimming pools, lakes or ponds not properly safeguarded.

--Stagnant water in which mosquitoes, flies, or insects breed or multiply.

The ordinance also supplies provisions for individuals and contractors who perform construction work inside the borough.

Workers should take precautions to limit the tracking of dirt or mud onto the street or an adjacent property; and to remove construction debris and remnants from the site.

The ordinance also will prohibit all building, road construction, excavation, or trenching on Sundays and legal holidays, and every day between dusk and 7 a.m. without a special permit issued by the borough secretary. In most cases, the permit will be issued only in an emergency.

Construction debris that runs onto the pavement or into the street must be removed the same day before 6 p.m.

The ordinance forbids using any property or operating any business that permits or causes dust, mud, dirt, acid, noxious or offensive fumes, gases, or odors to be discharged into the air, or carried off the premises.

It forbids the pollution of water by sewage, industrial wastes, or other substances.

Trees, plants or other obstructions must not be placed where they would block the view of motorists.

According to the ordinance, anyone who creates, continues, causes, maintains, or permits the existence of any above nuisance shall, within three days after notice from the council, remove or abate the nuisance. Failure to address the problem within the time limit will result in the council having the authority to remove or abate the nuisance.

The council then shall collect the cost and expense from the offender, plus an additional amount of ten percent to be assessed and collected in a manner provided for collection of municipal claims.

"Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a summary offense, and for every such offense shall, upon conviction be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than three hundred dollars, and costs of prosecution, and, in default of payment of fine and costs, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than thirty days."

Each day on which a violation shall exist or continue to exist, after a notice from council, shall constitute a separate offense. All unsafe structures shall be taken down and removed or made safe and secure, as the council may deem necessary.

The council, or its designated building official, shall examine every building or structure reported as dangerous, unsafe structurally, or constituting a fire hazard, and shall cause the report to be filed in a docket of unsafe structures and premises, stating the use of the structure, the nature and estimated amount of damage, if any, caused by collapse or failure.

Any unguarded vacant building which is open at a door or window, shall be deemed a fire hazard, according to the ordinance.



## Blaze destroys Ryegate Stables

Photos by David March

Twenty-five fire companies from four counties battled a fire at Ryegate Stables in Monroe Township last Friday, July 27.

The fire caused \$175,000 damage, destroying the barn, stables, indoor riding ring, tack room. Forty horses were saved and one perished.

The stables, located at 133 Ryegate Road, near Route 174, are operated by Bob Wheaton and owned by Richard Snelby according to fire officials.

Trooper James E. Boyle, a state police deputy fire marshal, said the blaze was ignited when hay was being off-loaded in the barn.

Township Fire Chief Keith Metzger said the stake body truck had been pulled into the barn and loose hay on the floor was ignited by the hot undercarriage. The fire was reported at 1 p.m. and was declared under control at 4:30 p.m.



## Grange Opposes Deficit Reduction Fuel Tax

Pennsylvania State Grange Master William Ringler told Pennsylvania's U.S. Congressmen and Senators Tuesday, July 24, that the Grange strongly opposes diverting highway users fees in order to reduce the federal deficit.

Currently Congress and the appointees to the Budget Summit are searching for ways to reduce the 1991 federal deficit to meet the \$74 million mandate of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act. Several proposals undergoing Congressional and Summit consideration would raise the existing nine cent federal excise tax on gasoline by 10 to 30 cents per gallon.

However, unlike current gas tax revenue which is earmarked for the federal Highway Trust Fund, the new taxes would provide revenue for the general fund.

"A deficit reduction fuel tax will seriously endanger the funding mechanism for both federal and state highway programs," Ringler said. "Many states are already raising fuel taxes to fund their current highway programs. If the federal government raises fuel taxes for deficit reduction, it will be even more difficult to generate support for future fuel taxes that are needed for highway programs, particularly at the state level."

"Residents of rural and western states have to travel much farther to get to work or stores than do people who live in more urbanized areas. Therefore

a deficit reduction fuel tax would make certain people pay varying amounts of taxes based on where they live rather than on their ability to pay."

Similar to other excise taxes, a deficit reduction fuel tax would be regressive and hits the poor much harder than others do, he added.

In addition, tourism is one of the major sources of state revenue throughout the nation and more than 80 percent of vacation travel is by private vehicle, Ringler noted. The travel industry has projected a \$2 billion decline in tourism as a result of a 10 cent per gallon tax hike.

Ringler urged the legislators to contact members of the Budget Summit and make them aware of these important issues and the opposition to any such tax.

The Pennsylvania State Grange represents about 40,000 rural Pennsylvanians.

## New Legislation Passed

Legislation aimed at preventing the malicious destruction of farmland and other real property by people joyriding in vehicles has been signed into law, according to Sen. John J. Shumaker, the Bill's prime sponsor.

Senate Bill 1282, for the first time in Pennsylvania law creates the crime of trespass by motor vehicle. Under the new law, anyone who operates a vehicle on real property including cultivated farmland without the permission of the owner will be subject to stiff fines and other penalties.

For the first offense, a driver will receive a \$500 fine. For second and subsequent offenses, the driver will receive a \$1,000 fine and a six-month suspension of his or her driver's license. If the individual has not reached the legal age to obtain a driver's license, the suspension would commence when the license is obtained.

In addition to automobiles, the bill covers trespass by snowmobiles, or ATVs, which have been cited repeatedly as the cause of serious destruction to crops throughout the state.

"This new law not only protects private residences, it protects the livelihood of Pennsylvania farmers," Shumaker said. "Too many times insensitive people have destroyed valuable crops by riding through fields. We're striking out at this problem by putting a high price on destructive joyriding."

## Warning Signs for Boaters

The Pennsylvania Fish Commission, in cooperation with the city of Harrisburg and the Department of Transportation, will be erecting warning signs on the arches of the Interstate 83 bridge in Harrisburg. The new signs will be placed on the south side of the bridge in order to warn boaters and anglers of the dangers of the Dock Street Dam.

According to Executive Director Edward R. Miller, the Commission will be supplying signs reading "Warning, Dangerous Currents Ahead." The signs will be placed by the

Department of Transportation approximately 150 feet below the dangerous low head dam that claimed the lives of four boating anglers this past spring.

The signs will be put in place the week of July 23 in an effort to warn boaters of the dangerous currents created by the Dock Street Dam. Signs and buoys located above the dam warn boaters approaching from upstream. The Commission and the city of Harrisburg are hopeful that such signs will curtail boating accidents at the dam site.

## Local Members Attend Conference

"The Challenge of the '90s" was the theme of the annual summer conference of the GFWC Pennsylvania Federation of Women's Clubs held July 18-20 at Pennsylvania State University, in cooperation with the College of Human Development.

Local members in attendance included Betty Bowers, 1st V.P. and Sandy DeBolt, Secretary representing Woman's Club of Dillsburg.

The conference was an educational and training seminar for members of the statewide organization. In 34 workshops, the various departments of GFWC-PFWC presented programs and projects for the coming two-year administration.

The President's Project will be literacy; with one out of five adults considered functionally illiterate, this has become a compelling social concern. The 500 clubs across Pennsylvania

were challenged to become involved in the solution to this problem.

The keynote address was given by Charles "Chic" Thompson, who spoke on "Creativity in the '90s." This was followed by a two-part "Challenge of the '90s" workshop, which encouraged members to identify and pose solutions to the challenges faced by volunteer organizations into the next century.

Jonelle Jordan, wife of retiring Penn State President Bryce Jordan and former member of GFWC in Texas, welcomed members to University Park.

The closing session was entitled, "Are You Ready?", by Robert Hoy. His motivational presentation sparked additional enthusiasm among members as they returned to their communities to work on new and continuing service projects.

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